

Appendix G: Screening Questions for Cave Creek Ranger District (RD)

During the route evaluations a comprehensive list of screening questions/considerations were reviewed by the Interdisciplinary (ID) Team for each route evaluated to clearly identify any impacts (potential and realized) and uses. This systematic and comprehensive approach was guided by Process software. Specific considerations are organized by topic below.

Table 1. Planning Area Considerations and Specifics

Considerations	Specifics Identified
Air quality	Route contributes to fugitive dust concerns; possible air quality issues; PM10 (particulate matter) Non-attainment area - in or through; PM10 Non-attainment area – proximate; other
Aquatics - Verde	Management indicator species - in or through habitat; proximate to habitat (within ¼ mile, if vegetation is available to catch sediment from route); in or through habitat; proximate to habitat (within ½ mile); other
Critical habitat designations	Proximate - Silver Creek (within ¼ mile); razorback sucker; razorback sucker - proximate (within 1/8 mile); through – Verde River – Southwestern willow flycatcher (East Verde downstream to mouth of Horseshoe (HS), HS Dam to gauge); through – Verde River - razorback sucker; in or through - Silver Creek; other
Emergency closure area	In or through; proximate; other
Grassland / savannah wildlife species	Management indicator species - in or through habitat; proximate to habitat (within ¼ mile); other
Historic	Trail(s); area(s); other
Inventoried Roadless Area	In or through; proximate (within ¼ mile); boundary route; other
Known cultural site(s)	Proximate (within 100 m or within 400 meters); in, through or to; site of tribal significance; other
National Monument	Proximate; boundary; portal access into monument; route is necessary for achieving monument objectives; other
National Register of Historic Places	In, through or access to; proximate; other
Recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS)	<i>Primitive</i> - motorized use is not permitted. <i>Semi-primitive non-motorized</i> - motorized use is not permitted. <i>Semi-primitive motorized</i> – motorized use is permitted. <i>Roaded Natural</i> – motorized use is permitted. <i>Rural</i> - motorized use is permitted. <i>Urban</i> - motorized use is permitted.
Riparian wildlife species	Management indicator species - in or through habitat; proximate to habitat (within ¼ mile); other

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Considerations	Specifics Identified
Upland wildlife species	Management indicator species - in or through habitat; proximate to habitat (within ¼ mile); proximate to habitat (within ½ mile); other
Visual quality objective (VQO)	Preservation – allows ecological changes only. Retention - management activities should not be evident and the landscape ought to appear natural. Partial retention - allows management activities to be apparent, but requires that the landscape remain at least predominantly natural. Modification - permits evidence of the management activities to dominate the landscape, but require that the landscape borrow from natural landscape characteristics and tend to be areas infrequently seen. Maximum modification - allows management activities to dominate the characteristic landscape, although it should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background
Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR)	<i>Wild</i> - In, along, crosses, access; <i>Wild</i> - Eligible for potential designation; <i>Scenic</i> - In, along, crosses, access; other
Wilderness	In; proximate; boundary route; cherry-stemmed into wilderness; leads to wilderness; illegal incursions; other
Wildlife habitat management area (WHMA)	Other

Table 2. Wildlife Species/ Habitat Considerations

Wildlife/ Habitat	Specifics Identified
Arizona cliffrose	In or through habitat (Lime Creek / Chalk Mountain); Proximate to habitat (within ½ mile); other
Bald eagle – threatened (T*)	Proximate to nest (within ½ mile); seasonal closure area; through habitat Verde River / Horseshoe/ Bartlett; proximate to habitat (within ½ mile); in or through nesting area; proximate to nesting area (within ½ mile); other
Bat colony	In or through habitat; proximate to habitat; other
Bezy's night lizard	In or through habitat; proximate to habitat; other
Cave myotis	In or through habitat; proximate to habitat; other
Colorado pikeminnow (squawfish) (ENE = Experimental non-essential-endangered) (Verde only)	In or through habitat [Verde River, Forest Road (FR) 269]; proximate to habitat (Verde River FR 16) (within 1/8 mile - FR 16); other
Common black hawk – management indicator species (MIS*)	In or through habitat; proximate (¼ mile) to habitat; other
Desert sucker	In or through habitat (Verde River); in or through habitat; proximate (¼ mile) to habitat; other
Exemplary plant communities	Other

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Wildlife/ Habitat	Specifics Identified
Gila chub – endangered (E*) (Silver Creek only FR°677)	In or through habitat (Silver Creek); proximate (¼ mile) to habitat (¼ mile if vegetation is available to catch sediment from route)
Gila topminnow (E)	In or through habitat; proximate (¼ mile) to habitat; other
Gila topminnow (E) (Lime Creek)	In or through habitat; proximate to habitat (¼ mile); other
Hohokam agave – sensitive (S*)	In or through habitat (Needle Rock area); proximate to habitat (within ½ mile); other
Horned lark (MIS)	In or through habitat (desert grassland); proximate (¼ mile) to habitat; other
Javalina	In or through; proximate; other
Lesser long-nosed bat (E)	In or through habitat; proximate to habitat; other
Longfin dace	In or through habitat; proximate to habitat (within 1/8 mile); other
Lowland leopard frog (S)	In or through habitat; proximate to habitat (within ½ mile); other
Mule deer	In or through; proximate (within 1 mile); other
Obsolete viceroy butterfly	In or through habitat; proximate to habitat; other
Other wildlife	Bats - low potential; other
Peregrine falcon (S)	In or through habitat (Chalk Mountain / Bootleg Canyon); proximate to habitat (within ¼ mile); other
Razorback sucker (E) (Horseshoe Dam upstream to forest boundary)	In or through habitat; proximate (¼ mile) to habitat; other
Ripley wild buckwheat (S)	In or through habitat; proximate (½ mile) to habitat; other
Sonoran Desert tortoise (S)	Occupied habitat - in or through [Desert Vista Trail (DVT), below 3,500']; occupied habitat - in or through; occupied habitat - proximate (within 1 mile); suspected habitat- in or through; suspected habitat- proximate; other
Southwestern willow flycatcher (E)	In or through habitat (Verde River, Horseshoe & downstream to gauge); proximate (¼ mile) to habitat; other
Vegetation	Sonoran Desert – burned/ unburned
Vegetation	Riparian - scrub shrub/broad leaf
Vegetation	Riparian
Vegetation	Upland
Yuma clapper rail (E) (Verde)	In or through habitat; proximate (¼ mile) to habitat; other

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Table 3. Hydrologic and Soil Considerations

Hydrologic and Soil Considerations	Specifics Identified
Ephemeral stream	In; proximate; cross; leads to / ends at / begin at; other
Impaired (303d listed**) water body	In, along, crosses, leads to; other
Intermittent stream	In; proximate; cross; leads to / ends at / begin at; other
Lakes / reservoirs	Route provides access to; proximate; other
Perennial stream	In; proximate; cross; leads to / ends at / begin at; other
Riparian	In, along; proximate; leads to / ends at / begins at; cross; other
Soils	Areas of moderately erosive soils; areas of highly erosive soils; known erosion scar; sensitive soils; compactable soils (low soil strength); other; area of erosive soils; route subject to erosion concerns
Wash	In; proximate; leads to / ends at / begins at; cross; other

Table 4. Commercial and Administrative Uses

Uses	Specifics Identified
Administrative uses	Access to developed recreation site Administrative gate Borrow pit Emergency fence Exclosure fence Vehicle exclosure fence / barriers Well Compliance/enforcement monitoring Monitoring site Resource treatment Weather station Weed abatement Wildlife agency monitoring Wildlife catchment Wildlife water / guzzler Predator control Other
Range	Cabin Ranch management Tank, trough Active allotment Allotment boundary Fenceline Cattle guard Corral Fence line (not allotment boundary fence line) Gate Pipeline Ranch Ranch headquarters Spring(s) Water catchment Well Windmill Other
Land Access	Forest Service – Coconino National Forest (NF) Forest Service – Mesa RD Forest Service – Prescott NF Private property access BLM land access City land access County land access Military land access State trust land access Tribal Nation land access Other
Mining	Active mine(s) Gate Inactive mine(s) Mining claim(s) Other

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Uses	Specifics Identified
Officially recognized in Federal planning document and maintained	System route System trail Federal planning document
Tourism / economics	Route is recognized as contributing to the local economy (tourism) Route is recognized in a local plan (interagency planning) Connectivity (inter-regional or intra-regional)
Utilities	Communication site / cell site Electrical transmission / powerline Gas pipeline Gate Telephone Utility corridor Other
Wildland fires	Access to look-out Escape route for wildland urban interface Fire suppression
Other	Airport / airstrip Apiary site Cemetery Commercial recreation (resorts, marinas, tours, etc.)

Table 5. Recreational Uses

Recreational Uses	
ATV	Motorcycle use
Birding	Motorized generally
Boating	Mountain biking
Camping - developed	OHV touring
Camping - dispersed	Other
Commercial public service site (resort, marina, etc.)	Paintball
Commercial recreation permit	Parking area – improved
Cultural exploration	Parking area - unimproved
Equestrian	Permitted equestrian
Firewood gathering	Permitted motorcycle / all terrain vehicle (ATV)
Fishing	Picnic site/area
Geocaching	River and stream access / put in-out
Great Western Trail - current alignment	Rockhounding
Great Western Trail - proposed alignment	Shooting
High clearance / stock four-wheel drive (4WD)	Special recreation use permit(s)
Hiking	Spiritual visitors
Hill-climbing	Staging area
Historical exploration	Sports utility vehicle (SUV) touring
Hot springs	Technical, site specific (extreme/rock crawling within a specified area, not a trail)

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Recreational Uses	
Hunting	Technical, trail (extreme/rock crawling within trails)
Interpretive site	Trailhead(s)
Interpretive site – cultural	Utility vehicles (UTVs)
Interpretive site – historical	Visitor center
Lake / reservoir access	Vistas, sightseeing, photography
Modified 4WD	Wilderness / WSR Access
Motorcycle trails	Wildlife watching

Table 6. Miscellaneous Issues/Concerns/Considerations Specified

Other Considerations	Specifics
Dumping	Littering; illegal dumping; other
Caves	Route provides access to; known vandalism to cave; other
High density route polygon	In or through; other
Other	Cactus theft; invasive species / noxious weeds – potential; invasive species / noxious weeds; trespass; conflicts between users
Other hazards	Mine shaft / mine adit; (safety) ingress/egress off highway; other
Route proliferation	Proximate to route proliferation; in or through route proliferation area; concern for route proliferation from route; route created due to route proliferation; other
Firewood gathering - illegal	
Route is a concern for public safety	
Route contributes to user conflicts	
Route helps minimize user conflicts	

* Special status species definitions are provided in Appendix B - Status Definitions

** Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. 2008. 2006/2008 Integrated 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) Listing Report